Discognathus wanæ, sp. n.

Depth of body 4 in the length, length of head $4\frac{1}{3}$ to $4\frac{2}{3}$. Snout rounded, nearly as long as postorbital part of head; diameter of eye 5 in length of head; interorbital region flat, its width nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ length of head. Width of mouth $\frac{1}{3}$ length of head; two barbels on each side, shorter than diameter of eye. Upper lip with minute papillæ near the margin; lower very narrow; behind it a circular disc divided into a papillose anterior and a smooth posterior portion, and with only the posterior edge free. Dorsal III 7; origin equidistant from tip of snout and base of caudal; first or second branched ray longest, nearly as long as head. Anal II 5. Pectoral extending $\frac{3}{5}$ of distance from its base to pelvics, which nearly or quite reach vent. Caudal deeply emarginate. Greyish, mottled with darker.

Five specimens, the largest 80 mm. in total length.

XXVII.—*On certain recently described Australian Species of* Tabanus. By Ernest E. Austen.

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The following notes, which relate to a paper published last year * by Mr. Frank H. Taylor, F.E.S., Entomologist to the newly established Australian Institute of Tropical Medicine, at Townsville, Queensland, are written in no spirit of churlish criticism, but solely with a view to assist other workers at an important family of Diptera, the study of which is beset with peculiar difficulties. The descriptions of the older authors relating to this family are almost always unsatisfactory and incomplete, and, based as they too often were on rubbed or otherwise damaged specimens, are frequently misleading. It follows, then, that their correct interpretation is in many cases well-nigh impossible for those who are unable to examine the types, and are unassisted by access to a well-equipped library or a large collection of accurately determined material. In the case of Tabanidæ, again, Australia appears to be peculiarly rich in groups of

* *Cf.* 'Australian Institute of Tropical Medicine, Report for the Year 1911' (Sydney: Angus and Robertson, Ltd. London: The Oxford University Press, 1913). Pp. 60–70, and pl. xiv.—The title-page of this publication bears no date, but the writer has been informed by Mr. Taylor that the Report appeared in May, 1913.

species, the members of which resemble one another so closely that extreme care is necessary for their discrimination. Lastly, it cannot be too strongly impressed upon all writers on Tabanidæ that in a genus like *Tabanus* (in which plastic differences between species are seldom obvious, while, on the other hand, the number of described species already amounts to considerably more than nine hundred) descriptions, if they are to admit of correct interpretation, must be *comparative* (*i. e.* must include a reference to allied species, and clearly indicate the points in which the supposed new species differs from them), and should always, if possible, be accompanied by a figure carefully drawn by a competent artist. Photographic illustrations are seldom satisfactory, since the imperfections of the particular specimen figured, which are reproduced only too faithfully, frequently obliterate many of the specific characters.

The British Museum (Natural History) is much indebted to Mr. Taylor for the generous gift of paratypes of all the species of *Tabanus* described by him in his paper as new, as well as examples of all but one of those re-described by him under previously existing names, and the study of these specimens has greatly facilitated the preparation of the subjoined notes.

"*Tabanus abstersus*, Walker" (p. 60, pl. xiv. fig. 14) *.— *Tabanus abstersus*, Walk. (Ins. Saund., Dipt. pt. i. p. 58, 1850), = *T. circumdatus*, Walk. (List Dipt. Ins. in Coll. Brit. Mus., i. p. 185, 1848). Mr. Taylor's figure, which shows an insect in which the majority of the veins in the distal half of the wings are strongly infuscated over the greater portion of their extent, has nothing to do with *Tabanus circumdatus*, Walk. (syn. *T. abstersus*, Walk.), in which the wings are hyaline and the veins are not infuscated, but looks like *T. limbatinevris*, Macq. (Dipt. Exot., Suppl. iv. p. 29 (1850), nec *T. limbatinevris*, Macq., *op. cit.* Suppl. ii. p. 16, 1847). The ♀ specimen forwarded by Mr. Taylor, however, as an example of the species regarded by him as *Tabanus abstersus*, Walk., belongs neither to *T. circumdatus*, Walk., nor to *T. limbatinevris*, Macq. (1850), but to a species unknown to the present writer. In the specimen sent the angle on the upper margin of the expanded portion of the third joint of the antennæ is produced into a long thumb-like process, much as in *Rhinomyza*, while the ground-colour of the dorsum of the abdomen (with the exception of the lateral

* The details in brackets refer to Mr. Taylor's paper.

margins and posterior angles of the first four segments, and a white-haired median fleck on the hind margin of each of the first five segments) is entirely black.

"*Tabanus fuscipes*, n. sp." (p. 62, pl. xiv. fig. 15).—The name *fuscipes* is preoccupied by *T. fuscipes*, Ricardo, 1908 (for a species found in South and Central Africa). The writer therefore ventures to propose the designation *Tabanus taylori* for the species under consideration.

Judging from the specimen sent to the British Museum, the description of the legs would seem to be partly misleading; the femora and tibiæ are *cinnamon-coloured*—a very different thing from "clove-brown."

"*Tabanus gregarius*, Erich." (p. 63, pl. xiv. fig. 16).—This is not *Tabanus gregarius*, Erichs., and does not even agree in any way with the original description of that species. It is a *species nova*.

"*Tabanus lineatus*, n. sp." (p. 65, pl. xiv. fig. 17), = *T. rufinotatus*, Big. (syns. *T. elestëem*, Summers, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 8, vol. x., Aug. 1912, p. 224; and *T. designatus*, Ricardo, Rés. de l'Exp. Scient. Néerland. à la Nouvelle-Guinée, vol. ix., Zool., livr. 3, p. 390, 1913).—The name *lineatus* is preoccupied by *Tabanus lineatus*, Fabr. (1781) (= *T. giganteus*, Deg.).

"*Tabanus pseudoardens*, n. sp." (p. 66, pl. xiv. fig. 18).—As shown by two ♀ ♀ of this species kindly forwarded by Mr. Taylor, the dorsum of the abdomen is *mummy-brown* (dark brown at the distal extremity), not "clove-brown," as stated in the description; the first four ventral scutes are *fawn-coloured*, not "clove-brown"; and the wings in the two specimens received have a well-marked brownish (not "creamy") tinge.

"*Tabanus tetralineatus*, n. sp." (p. 68, pl. xiv. fig. 20), = *T. cinerescens*, MacLeay (King's 'Narrative of a Survey of the Intertropical and Western Coasts of Australia,' vol. ii. p. 467, 1826).—The name *Tabanus cinerescens* and its author have hitherto been somewhat unfairly treated, Wiedemann and subsequent writers, including Kertész ('Catalogus Dipterorum,' vol. iii. p. 234, 1908), having written *cinerascens* instead of *cinerescens*, and attributed the designation to King instead of to MacLeay. The title-page of the volume in which the description was published bears the date 1827; the present writer is, however, informed by Mr. C. Davies

Sherborn (author of 'Index Animalium') that the work was actually issued on April 18th, 1826.

"*Tabanus parvus*, n. sp." (p. 69).—In size and general appearance, as also in the width of the *front*, this small species closely resembles *T. anellosus*, Summers (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 8, vol. x., Aug. 1912, p. 226), the typical series of which was also taken at Port Darwin by Dr. C. L. Strangman, the discoverer of *Tabanus parvus* at the same place. The latter species can, however, be distinguished from *T. anellosus* by the expanded portion of the third joint of the antenna being shorter and deeper, by the terminal annuli of the same joint being tawny-ochraceous like the rest of the joint, instead of dark brown, by the existence of a long appendix to the anterior branch of the third longitudinal vein, and by all coxæ, femora, and tibiæ being ochraceous-buff, whereas in *T. anellosus* the coxæ are grey, all the femora greyish clove-brown, and the front tibiæ clove-brown except at the base. Judging from an examination of the paratype of *T. parvus* kindly presented to the National Collection by Mr. Taylor, the description of the coxæ, femora, and tibiæ of this species as "clove-brown" is extremely misleading.

XXVIII.—*Report on the Annelida Polychæta collected in the North Sea and adjacent parts by the Scotch Fishery Board Vessel 'Goldseeker.'*—Part II. Nephthydidæ *to* Hesionidæ. By James W. Pryde, M.A., Walker Trust Research Scholar, Gatty Marine Laboratory, St. Andrews.

[Plate XI.]

The following report, which includes the Nephthydidæ, Phyllodocidæ, and Hesionidæ, is a continuation of that begun by Mr. William Small, M.A., B.Sc., in 1912 (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) vol. x. p. 165, 1912).

The Nephthydidæ are well represented, and out of the ten species accounted British by Prof. M'Intosh, six have been found to be present in the North Sea. The Phyllodocidæ are but sparsely represented by a single species, while the Hesionidæ show representatives of two genera out of the four that are British. They occur in numerous hauls at various depths and at various stations ranging from shallow water